

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RIYADH 00409 310829Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSM-03 AID-05 /060 W
-----019416 312136Z /12

R 301354Z MAY 78
FM USLO RIYADH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 503
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIYADH 409

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, SA
SUBJECT: CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE ISSUES CIRCULAR BLACKLISTING
WESTERN ELECTRIC

1. ON MAY 28 SAUDI BOYCOTT DIRECTOR KHOJA SHOWED USLO OFFICER
A SECRET CIRCULAR FROM THE CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE IN DAMASCUS
WHICH MADE THE FINDING THAT WESTERN ELECTRIC WAS ENGAGED IN MAN-
UFACTURING COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL AND WAS THEREBY BLACKLISTED.
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NO SPECIFICS WERE CITED AS EVIDENCE.

2. THE CIRCULAR PUTS KHOJA IN A DIFFICULT POSITION SINCE SAUDI
ARABIA IS ALREADY COMMITTED TO WESTERN ELECTRIC FOR ITS MICROWAVE
SYSTEM. AT THE SAME TIME KHOJA FEELS THAT SAG SENSITIVITY ABOUT
OFFENDING THE PALESTINIANS WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO IGNORE THE
CBO FINDING IF IT BECOMES PUBLIC. KHOJA HAS NOT YET INFORMED THE

MINISTRY OF PTT BUT HAS RECEIVED AN INQUIRY FROM PTT ABOUT WESTERN ELECTRIC'S BOYCOTT STATUS. HE SAID HE WILL REPLY APPROVING WESTERN ELECTRIC AND STRESSING ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KINGDOM. IN THE MEANTIME HE IS SITTING ON THE MINISTRY'S INQUIRY, HOPING THAT INTEREST IN IT WILL BLOW OVER AND THAT HIS ANSWER WILL PASS UNNOTICED. COMMENT: IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW THE WESTERN ELECTRIC ISSUE WILL SUBSIDE AS KHOJA HOPES. WESTERN ELECTRIC HAS BEEN MOVING INTO THE KINGDOM IN AN IMPRESSIVE WAY AND THE BLACKLISTING PUTS SAUDI ARABIA IN THE MOST PAINFUL CONFLICT TO DATE BETWEEN ITS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND ITS DESIRE TO KEEP A LOW POLITICAL PROFILE. KHOJA'S INTENDED REPLY SUGGESTS THAT HE IS CONSIDERING INVOKING THE NATIONAL INTEREST EXCEPTION IF PRESSED. NEVERTHELESS HIS CAUTION EVEN IN DEALING WITH A SAUDI MINISTRY SUPPOSEDLY SUBJECT TO HIS AUTHORITY SHOWS THE SENSIVITY OF THE ISSUE.
GNEHM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOYCOTTS, ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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